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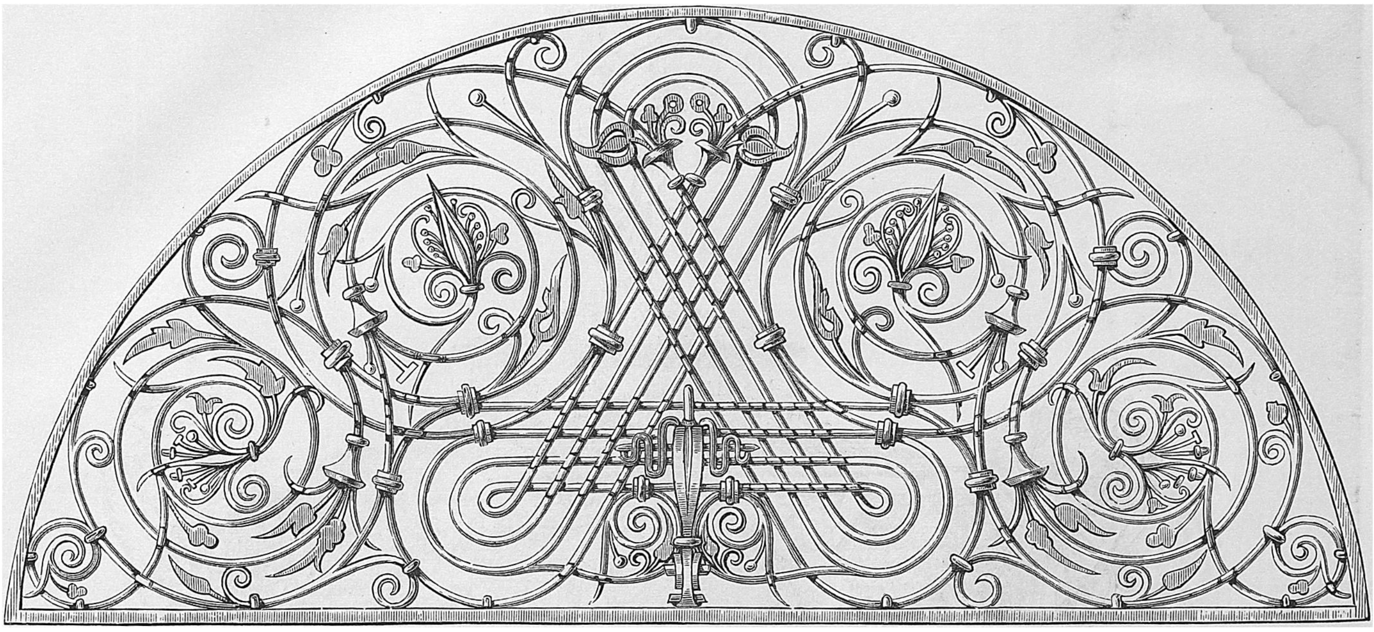

No. 18. Wrought-Iron Grille in Upper Part of Doorway of the *Rathhaus* in Nuremberg. (1616—1619).

VARIOUS.

Leather Dye.

A very favorite light-green dye for leather may be obtained according to the *Moniteur de la teinture* by brushing it over with a mixture of 100 parts of iodine-green *en pâte,* 5 parts of sulphuric acid, 10 parts of picric acid and 125 parts of water. The mixture must be cold or not more than luke-warm, and is applied with a brush or a sponge, the leather being properly dressed beforehand. Tints of different intensity are produced by repeating the process twice or more.

Coloring of Rooms.

Some hues being more favorable to the absorption and radiation of heat than others, the coloring of rooms has a certain effect upon their temperature. In this respect we should follow the example of Nature, who is lavish in her blues and greens — the azure of the skies and the green of the fields, — and never employ white which possesses the maximum of reflecting power, or black, which is the most perfect absorbent, except when combined as a neutral tint at once less offensive to the eye, and less readily affected by the rays of heat.

Waterproof Composition.

Dr. Scherzer, says the *Eastern Budget,* an Austrian official at Pekin, has just sent to his Government some specimens of a Chinese composition called "Schioicao", which has the property of making wood and other substances perfectly water-tight. He says that he has seen in Pekin wooden chests which had been to St. Petersburgh, and had come back uninjured, and that the Chinese use the composition also for covering straw baskets, which are afterwards employed in carrying oil for long distances. Cardboard, when covered with the composition, becomes as hard as wood; and most wooden buildings in Pekin have a coating of it. It consists of three parts of blood deprived of its fibrine, four of lime, and a little alum.

Mounting of Parchment on Paper, Wood, Cardboard, etc.

The fixing with common paste, glue or gum not being practicable, parchment has found but little application for book-binding or any other purposes where it is necessary to mount it. This difficulty may be obviated, however, by brushing over the side of the parchment which is to be fixed with alcohol or spirit, and pressing it on the mounting-board previously coated with common paste. If two parchments are to be glued together both are moistened with alcohol, and a thin sheet of paper, pasted over on both sides, is placed between. The fixing thus obtained leaves nothing to be desired.

Prevention of Rust.

Dr. Crace Calvert states that iron immersed for a few minutes in a solution of carbonate of potash or soda will not rust for years, though exposed continually to a damp atmosphere. It was believed long ago by soap and alkali merchants that the caustic alkalies (soda and potash) protected iron and steel from rust, but that the components of these salts preserved the same property as they do in a caustic state now. It does not seem to matter whether the solution is made with fresh or sea water.